

*Nguyễn thi Binh*

Paris, April 20, 1972.

The Honourable Members of the U.S. Congress,

In the capacity of one of the leaders of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, I wish to write to you, on the present, extremely serious situation in Viet Nam, a situation that concerns both our peoples and our countries.

For more than three years now, President Nixon has been making repeated promises to the American people about "U.S. disengagement" in Viet Nam, but he has actually prolonged and expanded the war throughout Indochina and is dangerously intensifying the hostilities.

After pouring over 6 million tons of bombs and shells on our land since he took office, President Nixon is sending B.52 bombers, tactical aircraft and warships to release everyday thousands of tons of bombs and shells on North and South Viet Nam, indiscriminately killing Vietnamese women and children. Going even farther than Mr. Johnson, President Nixon has ordered B.52's to bomb Hanoi, Hai Phong and other populous areas of North Viet Nam. Mr. Nixon said that such actions were necessary to "protect the lives of the American troops" and "to defend the self-determination" of the South Vietnamese people. In fact, he has thrown in the material strength and the honour of the United States in an attempt to maintain Nguyen Van Thieu, a hated U.S.

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agent whose immediate resignation is firmly demanded by the South Vietnamese people, and to preserve a regime which is symbolized by "tiger-cage" jail-cells built with the American people's money. This is what Mr. Nixon calls his policy of "Vietnamization" of the war.

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For many years, the American people have been deceived by the successive administrations in Washington about what was happening in Viet Nam. The Resolution on the so-called "Tonkin Gulf incident" allowed the Johnson Administration to introduce over half a million U.S. troops to South Viet Nam and to bomb North Viet Nam. What did all this lead to ? At present, by repeating about the so-called "invasion by North Viet Nam", Mr. Nixon wants the United States to live again the same old tragedy, to embark on the path of new military adventures, to cause savage destructions and killings to a country whose people have done no harm whatsoever to the United States and its people.

I can assure you that, no matter to what level Mr. Nixon escalates the war, he cannot retrieve his "Vietnamization" policy from bankruptcy, nor can he prevent the South Vietnamese people from achieving their genuine independence, freedom and self-determination. The only thing Mr. Nixon can do is to pile up crimes that are unbearable to any person of conscience throughout the world and that further smear the honour of the United States.

According to the U.S. Constitution, the Congress has the power to decide on the question of war and peace. Therefore, I urge you to stop President Nixon in taking an adventurous path wrought with unpredictable consequences.

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What do we want ? In July 1971, I presented to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam a peace plan, of which the two crucial questions have been further clarified in February 1972. The plan is more than explicit : The American Government should withdraw all its forces within a determined period. We are prepared to ensure full safety for such a withdrawal. We do not compel the U.S. to accept the Provisional Revolutionary Government, but on the other hand, we will not allow the U.S. Government to impose upon us the U.S.- created Thieu administration. We stand for the formation in South Viet Nam of a completely new government, truly and widely representative of the South Viet Nam people regardless of their political tendencies and religious beliefs. That government will organize general elections with all necessary measures to ensure their democratic and free character, so that the South Viet Nam people may decide themselves their own political system. We advocate an independent, peaceful and neutral South Viet Nam ; we hold that the peaceful re-unification of Viet Nam should be carried out step by step, on the basis of agreement between the two zones North and South. If an agreement is reached on these questions at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam the war will be rapidly ended and the captured servicemen of both sides will return soon to their homes. After the end of the war, we want to establish friendly relations with the United States on the basis of equality and mutual interest.

Is that a demand of "capitulation" from the United States, or a desire to "turn South Viet Nam communist", or a demand that the U.S. "abandon its ally", as Mr. Nixon pretends to the American public to justify his escalation of the war ? Our people are acting just as all self-

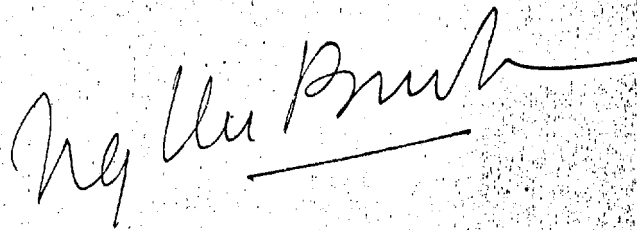
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respecting people would do when a foreign country drops millions of tons of bombs over them to impose upon them a regime of its creation.

There is no other solution to the South Viet Nam problem than the Nixon Administration should stop its intensification of the war in South Viet Nam, end its escalation of the air war against North Viet Nam, and resume the work of the Paris Conference with a real desire to negotiate.

I am firmly confident that justice will overcome cruelty, and truth will overcome fallacy.

Please accept, ladies and gentlemen, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nguyen Thi Binh', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

NGUYEN THI BINH,  
Member of Central Committee of the NFL,  
Foreign Minister of the P.R.G. of the  
Republic of South Viet Nam.

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<b>Remarks:</b>  Attached is a copy of Madam Binh's letter to the members of Congress which we obtained in confidence from the Foreign Relations Committee staff and which I mentioned at this morning's Executive Committee meeting.  <div style="background-color: black; width: 300px; height: 40px; margin: 10px auto;"></div> JOHN M. MAURY Legislative Counsel  cc: DDCI, Ex. Dir. -Compt., D/OCI, DDP, <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div> Chief/FE			
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